



### **3B.**

#### **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

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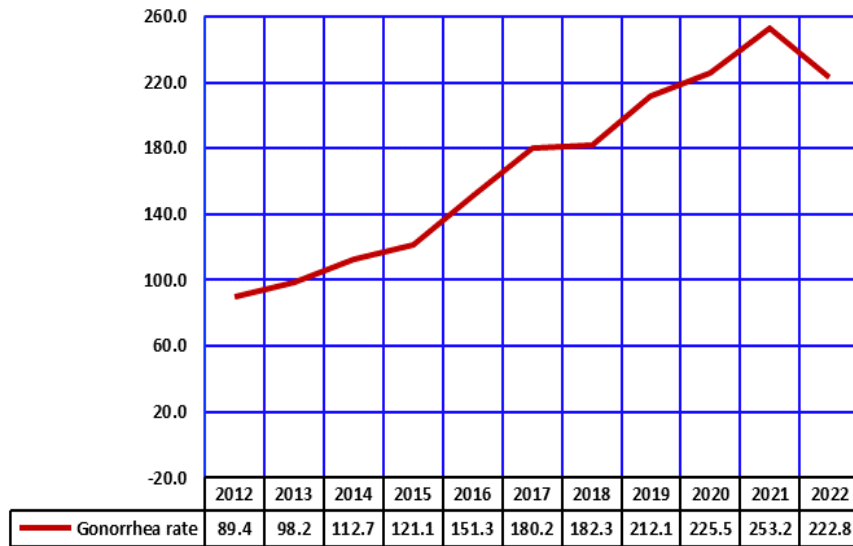
All states require that certain sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) be reported by physicians and other health care providers when they suspect that a case has occurred or they have laboratory confirmation.

It is important to note that disease reporting is likely incomplete and completeness may vary depending on the disease. Moreover, changes in methods for public health surveillance, or implementation of new diagnostic tests can cause changes in disease reporting that are independent of the true incidence of disease.\* In this section, STD rates were calculated using denominators from the CDC for years prior to 2018. In the current report, the Arizona Department of Health Services denominators were used to compute the STD rates.

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of notifiable diseases – United States, 2008. Published June 25, 2010, for 2008; Vol. 57 (No. 54). Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5754a1.htm>

### 3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

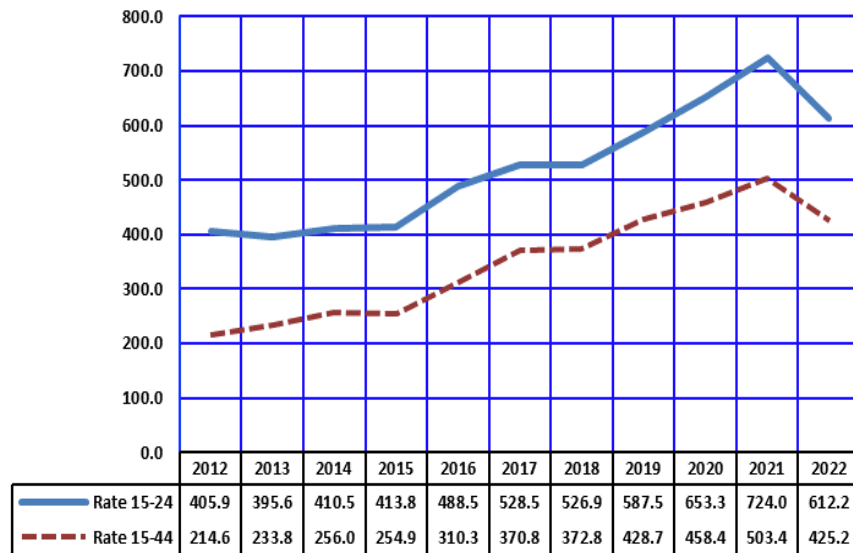
**Figure 3B-1**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates<sup>a</sup> of Gonorrhea by Year, Arizona, 2012-2022



*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection is the second most commonly reported notifiable disease in the United States. (Figure 3B-1). Although there was a slight rate decrease in 2022, the consistent steady increase in the incidence rate of gonorrhea since 2012 likely resulted from a combination of factors, such as changes in surveillance, increases in the number of tests performed, and actual increases in disease occurrence (Figure 3B-1).

Note: <sup>a</sup> Number of reported cases per 100,000 population.

**Figure 3B-2**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates<sup>a</sup> of Gonorrhea among Females aged 15-24 and 15-44 Years, Arizona, 2012-2022



The 2022 incidence rate for gonorrhea was 425.2 per 100,000 for Arizona females aged 15-44 years. Additionally, in 2022 the gonorrhea incidence rate in Arizona females 15-44 years of age was less than incidence rate of females 15-24 years old, which was 612.2 per 100,000.

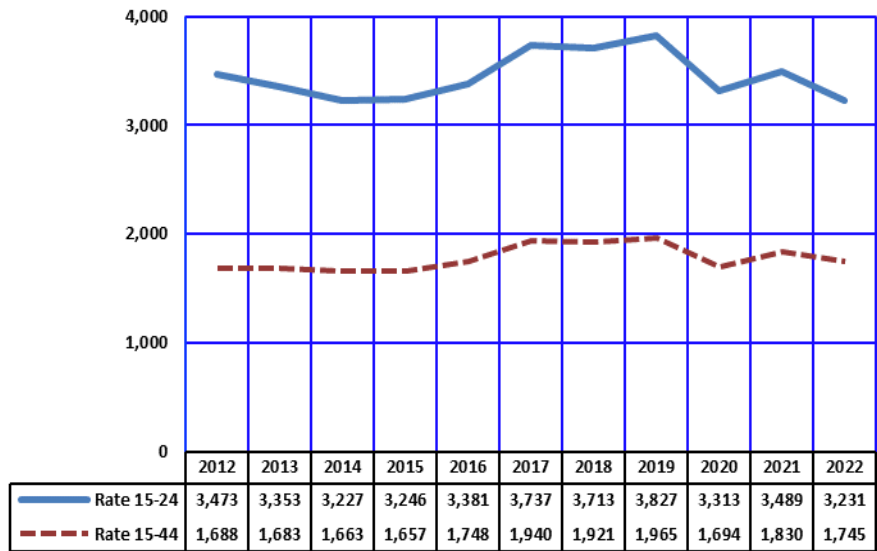
Notes: <sup>a</sup> Number of reported cases per 100,000 females

### 3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

**Figure 3B-3**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates<sup>a</sup> of Chlamydia among Females 15-24 and 15-44 Years, Arizona, 2012-2022

*Chlamydia trachomatis* is the most prevalent bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States (1,649,716 cases in 2022\*) with the highest rates reported among adolescents and young adults (**Table 3B-4**). Recent availability of sensitive tests for *chlamydia* using DNA amplification technology undoubtedly contributed to the increase in the number of reported cases in Arizona over the last decade (**Figure 3B-3**, **Table 3B-1**).

The incidence rate of chlamydia among females 15-44 has decreased from 1,830 per 100,000 females to 1,745 per 100,000 females within the age group.



\*Most recent publication <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2022/overview.htm#Chlamydia>

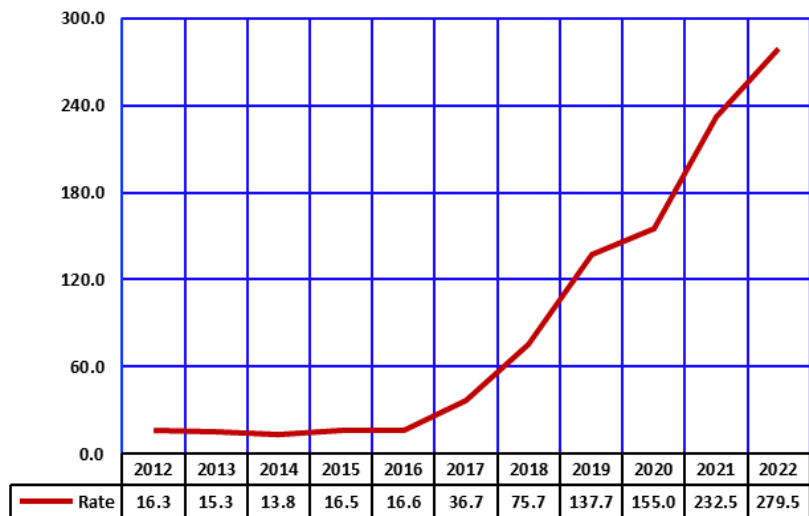
Notes: <sup>a</sup> Number of reported cases per 100,000 females

Congenital syphilis is an infection caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*, which can be passed from the mother to child during fetal development or birth. Not all infants born to infected women will be infected.

In 1988, CDC implemented a new Congenital syphilis case definition. It no longer relies on documentation of infection in the infant; rather, it presumes that an infant is infected if it cannot be proven that an infected mother was adequately treated for syphilis before or during pregnancy.

The Arizona incidence rates of congenital syphilis were for the most part below 20 cases per 100,000 infants from 2012-2016. In 2017, a sharp increase in the incidence was recorded (36.7/100,000), in 2018, the rate more than doubled at 75.7/100,000 and in 2022, the rate was the highest recorded during the 11-year period at 279.5/100,000. (**Figure 3B-4**, **Table 6A-2**).

**Figure 3B-4**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates<sup>a</sup> of Congenital Syphilis by Year, Arizona, 2012-2022



Notes: <sup>a</sup> Number of reported cases per 100,000 births.